

**MARVEL**

**#3**

**COSTA  
SANDOVAL  
ALMARA**

# VENOM<sup>®</sup>





YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

# VENOM



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH, BUT, IN THE PROCESS, WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS HOST, FLASH THOMPSON, UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

BONDED TO A HOMELESS MAN AND STUMBLING THROUGH BROOKLYN, THE SYMBIOTE INADVERTENTLY WALKED INTO AN ARMS DEAL GONE BAD. ONE OF THE MEN AT THE SCENE, A FORMER ARMY RANGER NAMED LEE PRICE, WAS IN THE LINE OF FIRE WHEN, IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HIS LIFE, THE SYMBIOTE INSTINCTIVELY BLANKETED ITSELF OVER HIM.

IN DOING SO, HOWEVER, PRICE AND THE SYMBIOTE WERE BONDED, AND THANKS TO HIS MILITARY TRAINING, LEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPOSE HIS WILL UPON THE CREATURE IN THE HOPES OF UNDERMINING THE BLACK CAT IN HER QUEST TO BECOME NEW YORK'S KINGPIN OF CRIME.

HE JUST HAS TO DEAL WITH THE F.B.I. AGENTS WHO ARE ON HIS TAIL FIRST...

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THOUGH WE ARE A  
BENEVOLENT SPECIES,  
THERE IS NO LITERATURE  
ON MY HOME PLANET.



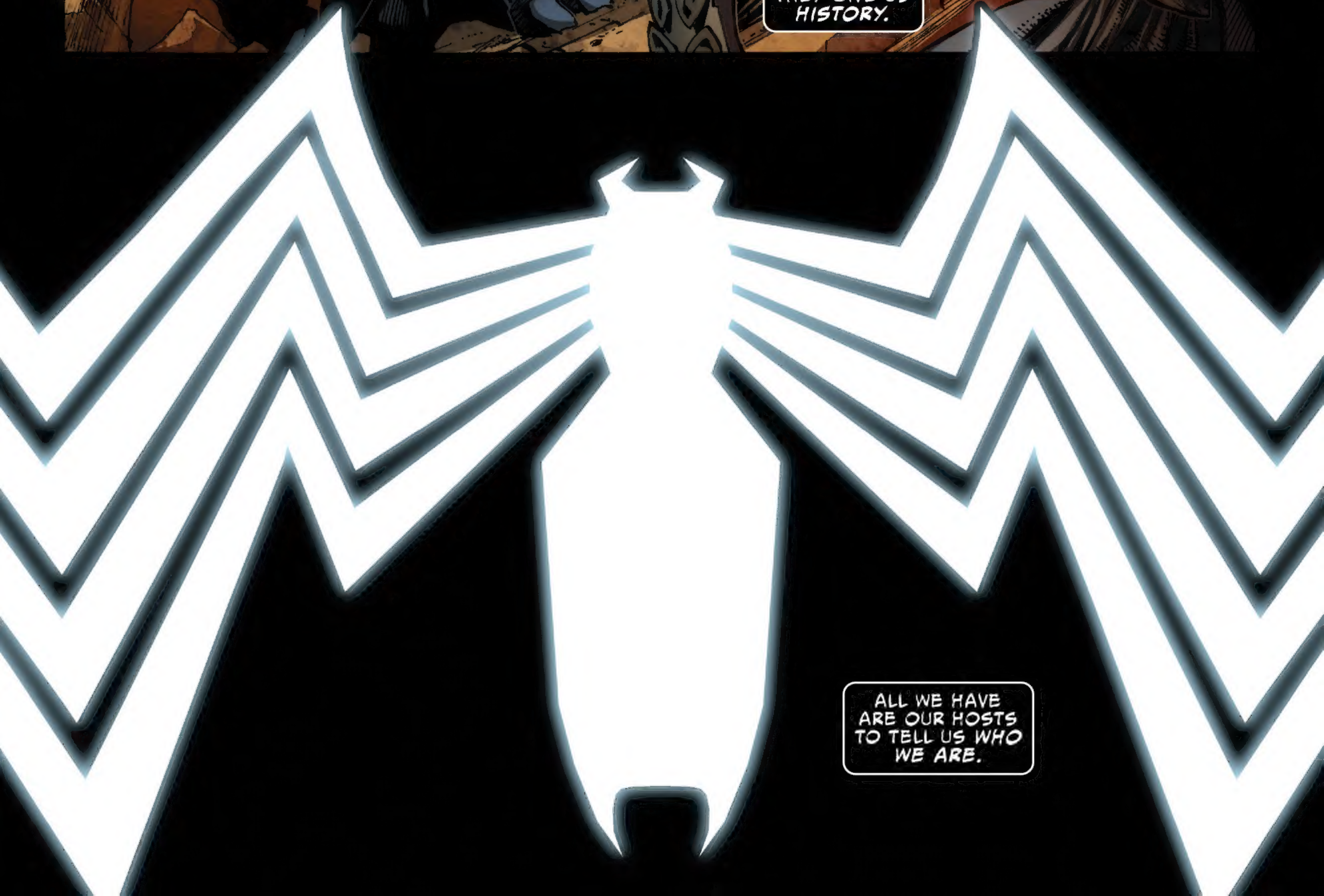
AND THOUGH IT IS OUR GOAL  
TO MAKE THE UNIVERSE BETTER,  
WE CREATE NO ART, NO MUSIC,  
NO CULTURE. AT LEAST, NOT  
AS OTHER CIVILIZATIONS WOULD  
UNDERSTAND IT.



ALL WE HAVE ARE OUR  
HOSTS--THE BEINGS WE  
JOIN WITH--TO FORGE  
THROUGH THE COLD  
AND UNFORGIVING  
COSMOS WITH.

THE BOND BETWEEN A  
KLYNTAR AND ITS HOST  
IS SACRED. THEY GIVE  
OUR LIVES CONTEXT AND  
OUR EXISTENCE MEANING.

THEY GIVE US  
HISTORY.



ALL WE HAVE  
ARE OUR HOSTS  
TO TELL US WHO  
WE ARE.





I HAVE HAD MANY ANGRY HOSTS AND MY TIME EXPOSED TO THEIR PSYCHES CORRUPTED ME, DROVE ME AWAY FROM MY SPECIES' TRUE NATURE.

BUT ONE HOST, FROM EARTH OF ALL PLACES, SHOWED ME A BETTER WAY.

MANY OF MY HOSTS SINCE WERE VIOLENT OR CRUEL.

EXCEPT FOR THE MOST RECENT.

FLASH THOMPSON.

WITH HIM, I WAS A HERO. I WAS BUILDING SOMETHING.

MY NEWEST HOST, HOWEVER...

GET OUT OF MY WAY, OR I'LL KILL YOU.





GET--

RELEASE THE  
HOSTAGE AND GET DOWN  
ON YOUR KNEES WITH YOUR  
HANDS BEHIND YOUR  
HEAD!



OH #/%\$@,  
PARTNER!



IS THAT  
**VENOM**?! I  
THOUGHT HE WAS  
ONE OF THE  
GOO--

GET BACK  
TO THE CAR,  
COYLE!

AND **YOU**!  
RELEASE  
THE HOSTAGE!  
I WON'T ASK  
AGAIN!

YOU WANT  
TO TAKE A POKE  
AT ME NEXT? FINE.  
**FIREBUG** HERE  
WON'T TAKE  
LONG.

NNNNNGGG...

F...F...



#/%\*%  
**YOU!**



AAAARRRGGG!

AW, HELL.

SKRABOOM

NYARRRGH!

COME ON, KEEP IT  
TOGETHER! I KNOW  
IT HURTS, BUT GET IT  
UNDER CONTROL!

I CAN'T DO THIS!  
NEED SOMEONE ELSE.  
ANYONE ELSE.  
ANYONE ELSE!

HOLD IT  
TOGETHER OR  
WE DIE!





PLEASE TELL  
ME YOU CALLED  
BACKUP!

WHEN  
WOULD I HAVE  
HAD TIME TO  
DO THAT?!

I COULD JOIN WITH  
ONE OF THEM! A  
POLICE OFFICER!



YAAAAARGHEE!

NO!  
STOP!  
COME  
BACK!

LET.

ME.



YAAA!  
WHAT IS  
THIS?

NO!

GO!



BLAM BLAM



GUH!





WAMBAUGH!  
PERP'S DOWN! LET'S  
GET THAT THING OFF  
YOU!

GETITOFF  
GETITOFFGETITOFF  
GETITOFF!

I CAN HELP YOU.  
THE THINGS WE  
COULD DO--

LET ME  
HELP YOU!

I'M MEANT FOR  
THIS! TO BE A HERO!  
TO SAVE LIVES!

IT'S  
SCARED OF  
THE FIRE!

HIT  
IT WITH THE  
FIRE!

TO SAVE...

NFF...



TO SAVE  
LIVES.

DAMN  
IT.

WHAT  
THE HELL WAS  
THAT?



# BLACK CAT'S HEADQUARTERS.

DID YOU SAVE THE PUKE?

EXCUSE ME?

THAT LYING #^&@ THAT WAS IN HERE THIS AFTERNOON. HE PUKE IN THE TRASH CAN. DID YOU SAVE IT?

NO, I DIDN'T SAVE HIS PUKE, GARGAN.

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT TO FIND IN IT?





YOUR GUY AT THE NYPD SENT ME PHOTOS FROM THAT SCENE IN THE ALLEY WITH OUR PEOPLE.

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

THAT GUY EXPECTS US TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS A DEAL GONE BAD? AN AMBUSH?

THIS LOOK LIKE THEY WERE SHOT UP BY TOMBSTONE'S BOYS TO YOU?



HE'S LYING, CAT. I CAN--

GARGAN, IF I REFUSED TO WORK WITH LIARS, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO WORK WITH.

WE KNEW WHATEVER WENT DOWN THERE WAS A SUPERHUMAN AMBUSH BEFORE THAT MAN EVEN SET FOOT IN OUR DOOR. THIS COULD BE ONE OF THE KINGPIN'S BOYS MAKING A MOVE. THIS COULD BE ANYTHING.



IT COULD BE HIM!

WHY? SO HE COULD BRING ME BACK MY OWN CARGO? AT WORST, HE'D BE GUILTY OF TRYING TOO HARD TO WORK FOR ME.

IT'S NOT HIM I'M WORRIED ABOUT, MAC.





TONY?

LEE!



NOT MUCH TO SAY THESE DAYS. YOU **KILLED** ME, DUDE.

THERE'S SOMETHING **BLACK** INSIDE OF YOU.

I KNOW...



IT'S BEEN THERE ALL ALONG.



"I JUST NEEDED  
SOMETHING TO  
SET IT FREE."

NNNFF...

WHERE...  
WHERE AM--

THIS...  
IS TONY'S  
PLACE.

I SAW  
IT IN YOUR  
MEMORIES. IT  
WAS THE ONLY PLACE  
THAT SEEMED  
SAFE.

EXPLAINS WHY  
I WAS DREAMING  
ABOUT HIM.

YES. I SAW  
YOUR DREAMS,  
TOO.

BUT  
YOU SAVED  
ME, DIDN'T  
YOU?

YOU  
WANT TO  
HATE ME, BUT  
YOU SAVED  
ME.





I DO  
HATE YOU, LEE  
PRICE.

BUT THAT  
DOES NOT MEAN  
I WILL LET YOU DIE  
WHILE IT IS IN MY  
POWER TO SAVE  
YOU. I PROTECT  
LIFE.



HEH. YEAH,  
YOU WERE REALLY  
KEEN ON PROTECTING  
THE LIFE OF THAT KID  
WHO TRIED TO  
INCINERATE  
US.



THAT  
WAS..

FIRE  
IS--



I GET IT.  
YOU'RE LIKE A  
DOG. SMART WHEN  
YOU'RE CALM, BUT WHEN  
YOU'RE **SPOOKED?**  
JUST AN ANIMAL  
ACTING ON  
INSTINCT.

YOU **THINK**  
YOU WANT TO BE  
A HERO. BUT WHAT  
YOU **REALLY** WANT,  
MORE THAN  
ANYTHING...



...IS FOR  
SOMEONE TO BE  
IN **CHARGE.**









...  
I  
CAN KILL YOU.  
YOU KNOW THAT,  
RIGHT?

THAT  
RIFLE MEANS  
NOTHING TO  
ME.

I WON'T  
LET YOU KILL  
THIS MAN. I'LL  
FIGHT YOU.  
YOU'RE STILL  
WEAK.



HE DOESN'T  
KNOW THAT.

YEAH, YOU  
COULD KILL ME.  
AND TO BE HONEST...  
I'M PRETTY SCARED  
RIGHT NOW.

BUT. IF  
SOME KIND OF  
BLACK TENTACLE  
GOO TRIES TO  
STRANGLE  
ME...



"...MY PARTNER WILL  
SEND AN INCENDIARY  
PAYLOAD THROUGH THAT  
PRETTY LITTLE WINDOW."





OH,  
WELL, YOU'LL  
**DEFINITELY**  
DIE IF THAT  
HAPPENS.

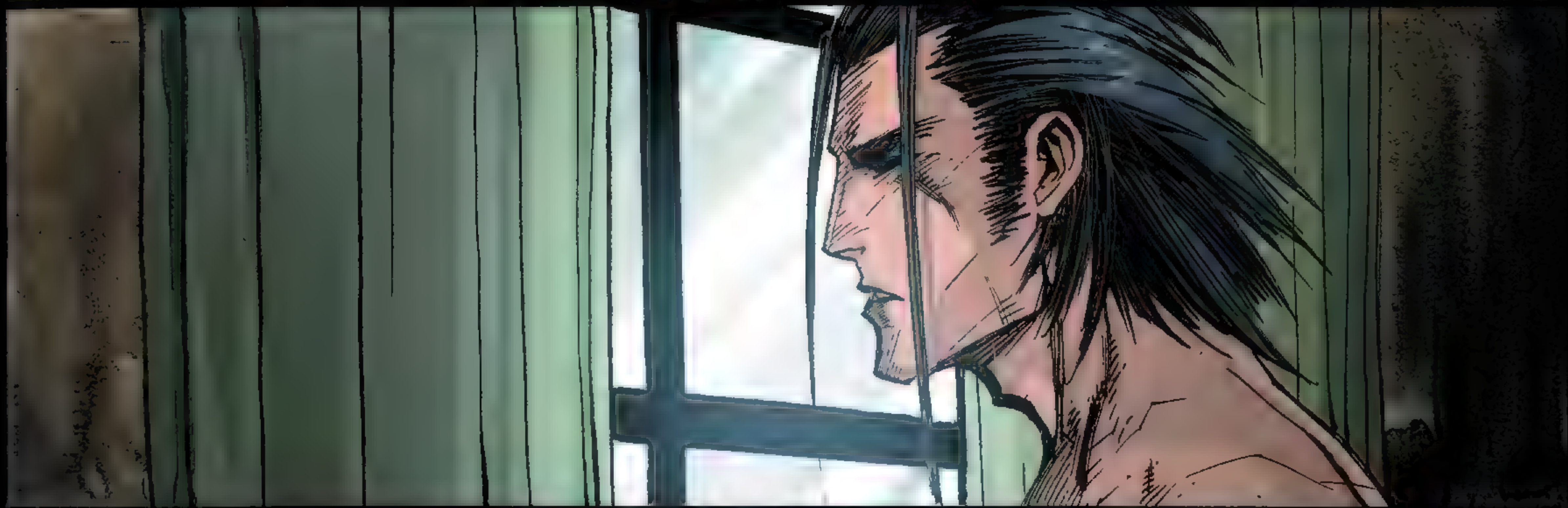
MIGHT  
NOT BE ENOUGH  
FOR ME.



NO. NO,  
IT MIGHT NOT.  
BUT TRY **THIS**  
ON.

WE KNOW YOU  
HAVE A SYMBIOTE.  
AND WE KNOW YOU'VE  
TAKEN STEPS TO PREVENT  
ANYONE, INCLUDING YOUR  
CRIMINAL PALS, FROM  
**KNOWING** YOU HAVE  
THAT SYMBIOTE.  
PRESUMABLY.

AND WE'RE  
NOT HERE  
TO ARREST  
YOU.



I'M  
LISTENING.



WHATEVER  
YOUR PLANS WERE,  
PRICE, THEY'VE JUST  
CHANGED.

EITHER MY  
PARTNER PULLS  
THAT TRIGGER AND  
YOU DIE IN HERE  
WITH ME...

...OR YOU  
SURVIVE, AND BLACK  
CAT AND HER CREW START  
WONDERING WHY MY AGENCY  
BLEW UP THE RESIDENCE OF A  
**DEAD** MEMBER OF HER CREW FOR  
NO GOOD REASON. AND THEN  
SHE STARTS SNIFFING  
AROUND.

GIVE HER A DAY,  
A WEEK, A MONTH. DOESN'T  
MATTER HOW LONG. SHE'LL BE ON  
YOUR TRAIL. AND ONCE SHE GETS A  
WHIFF OF THAT SYMBIOTE, SHE AND  
HERS WILL HUNT YOU DOWN.  
BEFORE LONG, YOUR SECRET  
**WILL** COME OUT.

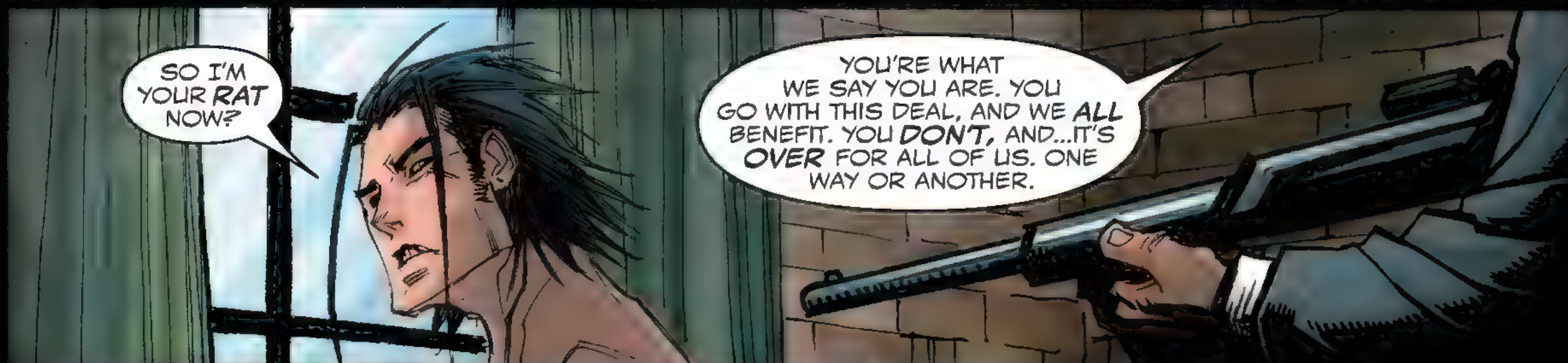
AND THEN  
WHATEVER GAME  
YOU'RE RUNNING'LL BE  
DONE. OVER. AND YOU'LL BE  
HUNTED BY EVERY POLICE  
AGENCY AND SUPER HERO  
ON THE PLANET.

OR...





...YOU  
WORK FOR  
US.



SO I'M  
YOUR RAT  
NOW?

YOU'RE WHAT  
WE SAY YOU ARE. YOU  
GO WITH THIS DEAL, AND WE ALL  
BENEFIT. YOU **DON'T**, AND...IT'S  
**OVER** FOR ALL OF US. ONE  
WAY OR ANOTHER.



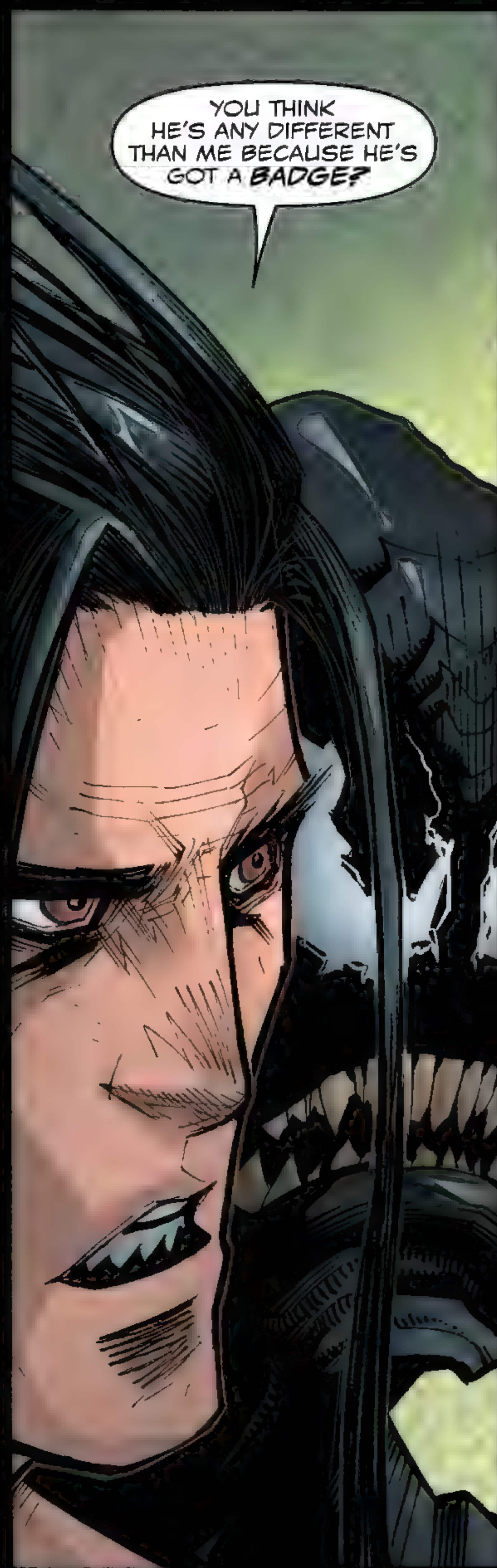
SINCE I'M NOT  
BEING MURDERED  
BY A SURGE OF BLACK  
**GOO** RIGHT NOW, I'M  
ASSUMING YOU SEE  
THE **SENSE**  
IN THIS.

YOU CAN  
MEET ME IN THE  
SQUARE IN FRONT  
OF PARKER INDUSTRIES  
TOMORROW AT NOON.  
WE'LL TALK DETAILS  
**THEN**.



I UNDERSTAND  
YOUR ANGER AT BEING  
**FORCED** INTO ACTION.  
BUT WE'LL BE WORKING  
TO DEFEAT CRIMINALS!  
**GOOD** CAN COME  
OF THIS!

SHUT  
UP.



YOU THINK  
HE'S ANY DIFFERENT  
THAN ME BECAUSE HE'S  
GOT A **BADGE**?





WAS THIS  
YOU?



WHAT?  
I'M BURNING  
BUILDINGS NOW? WHO  
DO YOU THINK I AM?  
THE **MOLTEN**  
MAN?



THAT'S  
**LEE PRICE'S**  
APARTMENT.

IT IS?  
WHAT THE HELL  
IS THIS? IS HE  
**DEAD?**



NO. NO  
BODIES IN THE  
APARTMENT.

I'D JUST  
ASSUMED YOU'D  
TAKEN MATTERS  
INTO YOUR OWN  
HANDS.



OH,  
YOU "ASSUMED,"  
HUH? THAT I'D GO  
BEHIND THE CAT'S  
BACK?



YOU CAME  
UPSTAIRS TODAY TO  
ASK ABOUT CHECKING **VOMIT**.  
OBVIOUSLY THERE'S SOMETHING  
IN WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT  
THAT'S GIVEN YOU CAUSE  
TO SUSPECT...

...WELL, I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT. BUT  
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S  
SOMETHING THE CAT  
CLEARLY DOESN'T  
**UNDERSTAND**.

I KNOW  
YOU TO BE A MAN  
WHO LISTENS TO HIS  
**GLUT**, GARGAN. AND WHO  
DOES WHAT HE THINKS  
NEEDS TO BE  
DONE.

BUT YOU'RE  
RIGHT. FIRE **ISN'T**  
YOUR STYLE.

WHEN  
YOU GO FOR HIM,  
YOU'LL GO **DIRECTLY**.  
THAT'S WHY THE CAT HIRED  
YOU IN THE **FIRST**  
PLACE, MAC.

TO DO  
THE THINGS  
THAT NEED  
**DOING**.



DAMN RIGHT,  
ADAMS.





**TO BE CONTINUED!**



**NEXT:**

**THE SCORPION STRIKES!**



**PLUS! AN *OVERSIZED* LETTER COLUMN, FEATURING YOUR LETTERS AND AN *EXCLUSIVE* PEEK AT**

**VENOM #150!**



